



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

PROJECT TITLE	Morning Canyon Fuels Reduction and Evacuation Project; 14-SRA-HF-01-0171		
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of Sections 13, 14, 23 and 24 of T09N, R11E, MDBM, near the community of Somerset.	COUNTY	El Dorado
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Tom Tinsley, Unit Forester		
ADDRESS	CAL FIRE's Amador-El Dorado Unit Headquarters 2840 Mt Danaher Road, Camino, CA 95709	PHONE	(530) 644-2345

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This is a fuels reduction project encompassing a total area of approximately 45 acres along 6.2 miles of roads on privately owned lands. Improved ingress and egress routes along 5 roads (30' on each side of the traveled roadways) will be constructed that will be contiguous to the fuels reduction project already completed by the Sandridge Fire Safe Council along Sandridge Road. Roads to be treated include Morning Canyon Road (2.45 miles), Mary Ann Lane (1.00 miles), Gregory Road (0.85 miles), Freedom Road (1.15 miles), and Cutaway Lane (0.75 miles). Vegetation on site includes conifers (Ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, Sugar pine, Gray pine and Incense cedar), hardwoods (black oak and live oak) and brush species (manzanita, yerba santa, and various ceanothus species). Vegetation to be removed includes flammable brush and trees under 7 inches DBH (vegetation planted for landscaping purposes will be retained). Work will be completed with use of hand labor and mechanized equipment including a chipper. The chipper will be towed by a pickup truck. Chipping will occur on existing roads or open clear areas. Chips will be hauled from the site or spread out along the ground at various locations along the treatment zones.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ **Categorical Exemption** Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land
☐ **Statutory Exemption** (state code section):
☐ **Ministerial** (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ **Declared Emergency** (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ **Emergency Project** (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of the above-listed Class 4 Categorical Exemption listed in CEQA Guidelines §15304 pertaining to Minor Alterations to Land. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE's Amador-El Dorado Unit Headquarters in Camino, CA; Attention Environmental Coordinator.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAR 10 2016

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Hege Eng, Deputy Director
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

3/5/16

Date